



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

President

Président

Ottawa, Canada
K1P 5S9

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

File: 4.05.01
e-DOC: 3290595
ccm 2008-000355

OCT 27 2008

Mr. Sanford Haskill
PO Box 354
Port Hope ON L1A 3W4

Dear Mr. Haskill:

Thank you for your letter dated September 9, 2008 (attached) regarding the Welcome Waste Management Facility (WWMF).

As you know, the mandate of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians, and the environment, and to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In carrying out this responsibility, the CNSC collaborates with other regulatory agencies such as the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Environment Canada. The CNSC is currently examining the operations at the WWMF and is working closely with the MOE on this issue.

It should be noted that only treated water is being discharged from the Welcome Waste Management Facility into Lake Ontario. The water is treated and tested at the Welcome Waste Management Water Treatment Building before being discharged to the pipe and Lake Ontario. CNSC staff has concluded from the analysis of the sampling data gathered in August and September of this year that there is no immediate health risk from the treated effluent being discharged from the WWMF.

To further confirm this, we have requested that Cameco provide us with an evaluation of the current system specifications, including a characterization of the current effluent discharge and a review of the effluent treatment and pipeline design. In addition, we have called for a detailed evaluation of the level of risk to human health and the environment. Should any gaps be identified as part of this review, Cameco is required to develop an action plan for CNSC and MOE review and approval. The CNSC has consulted with the MOE on this approach.

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I am confident that these actions will address the concerns you expressed in your letter. Rest assured that the sediment in the original discharge area of the pipe will be analyzed as part of this review.

In addition, please note that the last comprehensive inspection at the Welcome Waste Management Facility was performed on October 10, 2007. Since then, CNSC staff has inspected the site at least four times to take samples and discuss progress with Cameco. Another inspection is scheduled for early November 2008.

Finally, your comment concerning the water levels is correct. We can also confirm that the end of the pipe has been cleaved off. The exposure of the pipe may have resulted from one or more actions such as ice heave, storms or wave action etc. CNSC staff's original comments on these two issues were based on erroneous information.

The CNSC will ensure that the requested analyses are sufficient to ensure the continual protection of the health, safety and security of Canadians and the environment.

I trust that the above information is satisfactory. We will continue to keep you informed of any developments on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Binder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Binder

Attachment

cc: Linda Thompson, Mayor Port Hope
Gayla Campney, Regional Director M.O.E
R. Carl Cannon, CAO Port Hope
Andrew Oliver, Cameco Corporation